

# BILLINGE

## Urban District Council.

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### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1898.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report upon the health and sanitary condition of the Urban District of Billinge for the year 1898. The area of Billinge is 4,591 acres, and the density of the population '91 per acre. The total number of deaths occurring in the district in 1898 was 79 (41 were those of males, and 38 of females); this is equal to an annual death-rate of 18·81 per 1,000 of the population.

Of the 79 deaths, 19 occurred in infants under one year of age, four in children one and under five years, 22 in persons five and under 60 years of age, and 34 in persons over 60 years of age.

The deaths of children under one year of age numbered 19, equal to an annual infantile death-rate of 142 per 1,000 registered births.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—During the past year 21 cases of infectious disease received notification, as compared with 55 cases in 1897. Of these cases, five were reported in Billinge-Chapel-End, 12 Billinge-Higher-End, and four in Winstanley.

The death-rate from infectious disease during the last 12 months was nil, against an annual zymotic death-rate of '94 per 1,000 of population in 1897.

SCARLET FEVER.—Only eight cases of this infectious disease received notification during last year, as compared with 42 cases the preceding year. The severity of the disease was throughout the several districts very mild, death not resulting in a single case. With regard to its prevalence, Billinge-Higher-End furnished a much greater number of cases than the other districts.

Billinge-Higher-End	...	...	...	6
Billinge-Chapel-End	...	...	...	1
Winstanley	...	...	...	1

Its greater frequency in the aforesaid district can be accounted for from want of isolation of infected cases, as three cases occurred in one infected house.

ENTERIC FEVER.—Eight cases of this disease have been notified to me during 1898. This is a slight increase over the number notified in 1897, when only five cases were reported. Of the eight cases, five occurred in Billinge-Higher-End, two in Billinge-Chapel-End, and one in Winstanley.



The greater prevalency of this disease in Billinge-Higher-End, as compared with the remaining districts, is partly ascribed to inefficient ventilation of the sewer in this district. The disease would have been less prevalent had there not been two imported cases. As to their importation, direct evidence is forthcoming from the following facts, viz. :—In both cases the disease showed itself on their immediate arrival into the district.

In no case was there any reason to suspect either the milk or water supply.

**ERYSIPELAS.**—The frequency of this infectious disease is on a par with that of 1897, four cases being reported each year.

The disease also showed a well marked relation to season, for the whole of the attacks were notified during the winter months. The disease occurred in sporadic form.

**CONTINUED FEVER.**—One case of this disease was reported last year, and manifested itself where the drains were defective. These have been repaired, and no further spread has been notified.

**BRONCHITIS, PNEUMONIA, AND PLEURISY.**—During the past 12 months only 13 deaths were registered as due to these pulmonary affections, as compared with 28 deaths in the previous year.

This rate of mortality is equal to a death-rate of 3·09 per 1,000 of population.

**PHTHISIS.**—The deaths of 5 people were registered as due to this cause during the last half-year—equal to a death-rate of 1·19 per 1,000 of population. This is a distinct increase in prevalency, as compared with the two previous years, for in 1896 the percentage of deaths from this pulmonary affection was 4·25, in 1897 5, and during last year 6·32.

These statistics show that the mortality from this disease is becoming more pronounced. With the exception of one case, which was probably induced by occupation, all occurred in old property, where inefficient ventilation and dampness of soil are to be considered as important agents in its production.

**INJURIES.**—The mortality of the present year has been greatly augmented by deaths from injuries, of which 3 occurred in Billinge-Higher-End, and three in Winstanley.

**DISINFECTION.**—This is carried out as in past years, by means of chemical agents, which have given very satisfactory results. No special apparatus is yet available for the disinfection of clothing.

In case of an epidemic visitation the Council have secured a building which will furnish adequate means of combating with an outbreak.

House to house inspection has been made of several parts of the district, such as Weaver's Court, Roby Well, and Gorsey Brow. The bulk of this property is very difficult to keep in a sanitary condition, and unless more attention is paid to the sanitary requirements, proceedings against the respective owners for their closure will be advocated.

**SEWERS.**—Since the increased prevalency of enteric fever in Billinge-Higher-End, as compared with the other districts became manifest, additional attention has been given to the sewers in this district as regards their ventilation and flushing.

The several sewage farms have been often visited, and the effluents have always proved satisfactory.

**SCAVENGING.**—This work during the past year has been carried out by the Council in a most effective manner.

The refuse from middens is used for agricultural purposes. Last year, much work was done in abating the nuisances arising from privies and ashpits.

With few exceptions, all work connected with sanitary requirements was carried out without the serving of notices. Twenty-six notices were served, as against 24 in 1897. The notices were in every case complied with.





DAIRIES AND COW SHEDS.—These have received attention. With regard to the Dairies, no complaint can be made, each having a good supply of the Council's water.

The Cow Sheds are in most cases overcrowded and imperfectly ventilated. These injurious conditions I trust, will receive the Council's consideration by the adoption of bye-laws for their proper government.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—Three are registered, and are situate in the several townships. Occasional visits are made, and carcasses inspected. Up to the present time no complaint can be adduced to drainage, water supply, and cleanliness.

BAKEHOUSES.—These were found cleanly and well conducted.

LODGING HOUSES.—The lodging houses which have been in vogue for many years are all abolished, in no case has there been a renewal of licence.

WATER SUPPLY.—The intermittent supply which existed last year has been attended to and put right, and now the water supply is constant, plentiful, and uniformly good.

With few exceptions, the entire district is supplied by the Council's Mains.

During the past year the Sanitary Inspector has carried out his work satisfactorily, much credit being due to him for the abatement of many nuisances without recourse to notices.

		1897.		1898.
Death-rate	...	23·76 per 1,000 population	...	18·81
Birth-rate	...	35·05	„	31·66
Zymotic death-rate	·94	„	...	·0

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. O. MATHER.

Jany. 30th, 1899.

Table of Deaths during the Year 1898, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics.	Mortality from all causes, at subjoined ages							Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five Years of Age.						
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.		Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	Total.
Billinge-Chapel-End ...	41	8	3	1	2	10	17	Under 5		4			7	11
								5 upwds..	3	6	2		19	30
Billinge-Higher-End ...	24	9	0	0	0	5	10	Under 5					9	9
								5 upwds.	2	2	5	3	3	15
Winstanley .....	14	2	1	0	1	3	7	Under 5				1	2	3
								5 upwds.		1	3	2	5	11
Totals .....	79	19	4	1	3	18	34	Under 5		4		1	18	23
								5 upwds.	5	9	10	5	27	56



Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1898, in the Billinge Urban District ; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics.	Population at all Ages.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5	New cases of sickness in each Locality coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.			
	Last Census.	Estimated to middle of 1898.			Scarlatina.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	Continued Fever.	Erysipelas.
BILLINGE-CHAPEL-END ...	1983	1970	70	Under 5 ...	1			
				5 upwards..		2		2
BILLINGE-HIGHER-END ...	1445	1670	51	Under 5 ...	4	1		
				5 upwards..	2	4		1
WINSTANLEY ... ..	568	560	12	Under 5 ...				
				5 upwards..	1	1	1	1
TOTALS.....	3996	4200	133	Under 5...	5	1		
				5 upwards..	3	7	1	4

